



The Mississippi Singing Churchmen (above) and Mary Frank Kirkpatrick (below) are featured at the WMU Convention, March 27-29 in Jackson.

Mississippi Seminary Sells Headquarters

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary sold its properties on Delta Drive in Jackson to the Mt. Moriah Missionary Baptist Church of Jackson, Mar. 9, for \$112,000, according to Dick Brogan, interim president of the seminary.

The purchase of the building that served as a headquarters and classroom space for the Central Center (15 other extensions statewide) places the 36 year old institution in a debt-free position.

The headquarters and Central (Continued on page 3)



Teens Weren't Too Young For Service

Last summer Teri Ward, 16, and Sharon Warren, 17, knew they were too young for student summer missions . . . thought they were too old for Vacation Bible School . . . but found out they were just right . . . for Sojourners.

Like the other 50 students who have gone out in the seven-year-old Home Mission Board plan to give high school students an opportunity to experience missions first hand, Teri and Sharon learned about missions—but they also learned a lot about themselves.

Sharon was in her home church, First Baptist of Senatobia, Miss., when a returning summer missionary to Pennsylvania spoke. "She said there was a program for high school students but she didn't know much about it," Sharon remembers.

Later, Sharon was surprised to learn that Sojourners—high school juniors or seniors—have to support themselves. But the idea of summer missions appealed to her.

"God has been the Lord of my life for a long time and I just wanted to serve him in the fullest potential that I could and I felt this was the way I could do it, by giving up my summer to him."

Although reluctant for her to go, her parents finally agreed. "If the Lord was willing for me to do it, they would let me," Sharon explains.

Sharon's pastor encouraged her to apply, offering to help. He also suggested to the deacons that the church pay Sharon's costs. They agreed.

So Sharon was ready to become a Sojourner.

Only one unexpected hurdle remained: Sharon herself.

Her pastor convinced her she was having a case of "premature homesickness."

Teri learned about Sojourners almost too late.

At an Acteen houseparty she heard

(Continued on page 5)



Sojourner Sharon Warren of Senatobia tells a Bible story in a campground in Russellville, Ark. (Photo by Jim Wright)

HMB Study

Many Ethnic HMB Missionaries May Qualify For Food Stamps

By Everett Hullum

CHICAGO (BP)—Inflation and "business-oriented standards" have resulted in disturbingly inadequate salaries and retirement incomes for a majority of ethnic missionaries in the U. S., an official of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board said.

Oscar Romo, director of language missions for the board, detailed results of a survey to missions leaders attending the 21st annual Language Missions Leadership Conference in Chicago.

The study indicated more than 50

percent of language missionaries can qualify for food stamps, he said.

In addition, dozens of language missionaries face an old age of substantially lowered incomes. One, recently retired, receives monthly "only one dollar for each of the 36 years she served," Romo reported.

Urging conferees to re-examine state commitments, Romo challenged: "It is our responsibility to communicate, to encourage, to lead eligible and talented language-culture persons to avail themselves of the benefits as well as the struggles of language missions."

Romo blamed the "startling statistics" on two conditions—success standards of missionary work based on "traditional, Bible-oriented, rural culture" and failure to communicate with persons who don't understand "our own various terms, axioms and policies."

Commenting on the first condition, Romo said most ethnics live and work in metropolitan, non-Bible oriented, multicultural environments and that typical SBC standards of success cannot be applied to them because their setting is more difficult.

(Continued on page 3)

WMU Convention:

March 27-29, 1978

First Baptist Church, Jackson

Monday Night, 7 p.m.

Hymns of Praise
Prayer
Meditation
Greetings from First Baptist Church
Business
Hymn
Offertory Prayer
Offering
Special Music
OUR BEST . . . in Winning the World

Tuesday Morning, 9:30 a.m.

Prelude by Singing Churchmen Handbells Group
Hymns of Praise
Prayer
Meditation
Recognition of Parents of Missionaries
OUR BEST . . . in Europe
Election of Officers
Hymn
OUR BEST . . . in Korea
Hymn
Offertory Prayer
Offering
OUR BEST . . . in gospel music
OUR BEST . . . in WMU
Prayer Calendar

Larry Black
Wendell Storey
Mrs. Robert Fling
Joe Triplett
Mrs. Murry Alexander
Adult Choir, FBC, Jackson
Eugene Grubbs
Joe McKeever
Mrs. O. B. Beverly

Tuesday Afternoon, 1:30 p.m.

Prelude by Singing Churchmen Handbells Group
Hymns of Praise
Prayer
Meditation
OUR BEST . . . in gospel music
OUR BEST . . . in Indonesia
OUR BEST . . . through the years
(Recognition of past state WMU officers and Centennial Committee)
Hymn
OUR BEST . . . in Nigeria
OUR BEST . . . in missionary music
OUR BEST . . . in Costa Rica
Prayer Calendar

Larry Black
Ethel McKeithen
Mrs. Fling
Mississippi Singing Churchmen
Mrs. Tom Barron

Mary Frank Kirkpatrick
Carey College Chorale
Russell and Annette Herrington
Mrs. Rothell Blackledge

Tuesday Night, 7 p.m.

Historical Pageant, City Auditorium, Jackson

Wednesday Morning, 9:30 a.m.

Hymns of Praise
Prayer
Meditation
OUR BEST . . . in Italy
OUR BEST . . . in Nicaragua
Hymns
OUR BEST . . . in Taiwan
Special Music
OUR BEST . . . in WMU
Calendar of Prayer

Larry Black
Frances Shaw
Mrs. Fling
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hollifield
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Stamps
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Simon
Major McDaniel
Miss Weatherford
Mrs. Gene Verell

The Baptist Record

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Dream Themes Promise Wide Awake State Bible Conference

Dream themes will dominate messages by featured speakers Ken Chafin and Wayne Dehoney during sessions of the Mississippi Baptist Bible Conference, March 20-21 in Jackson.

The conference, to be held at Jackson's First Baptist Church, beginning at 6:45 p.m., March 20, features the two nationally-known Baptist pastors, plus nearly six hours of concentrated study of a single Book of the Bible.

Theme of the Bible Conference is "Developing in Spiritual Boldness."

Larry Black, minister of music for First Church in Jackson, will lead the music during the conference.

The topics for discussion by Wayne Dehoney, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., include:

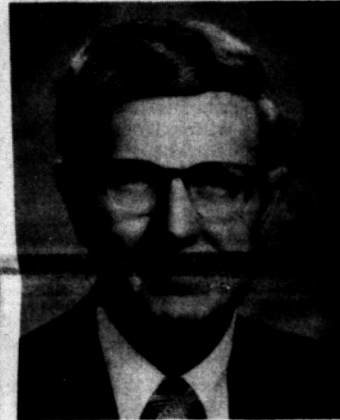
"Recapturing a Dream," with text from Exodus; and "Your Dreams and God's Power," with text from John.

Ken Chafin, pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Tex., will speak on "Holding on to your Dreams in a Secular World," with text from Genesis; and, in a departure from the dream theme, "The Key Ingredient in a Good Marriage," with text from Ephesians.

The five hour and forty minute study of a Book of the Bible will be made by participants who may choose from eight Books to be taught. Those Books are: I Peter, Matthew, Ephesians, Romans, Nehemiah, Acts, Hebrews, and Galatians. Each Book will be taught by a specialist in Bible teaching.



Black



Dehoney

The Baptist Book Store and the American Bible Society will have Bible and Book exhibits for viewing during the sessions.

Ministers and laypersons from all denominations are invited. The program is sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

in this issue

Christian Broadcasting Network begins news service. P. 2.
Attala project in California strengthens Christian witness. P. 3.
Retired Moorhead teacher 'unretires' in Tokyo. P. 5.
Lots of items for 'Just for the Record.' P. 7.



Chafin

Mississippian Created Seamen's Ministry Model

CHICAGO (BP)—John P. Vandercook, a native of Mississippi who withstood early criticism and became the

"father of Southern Baptist seamen's ministries," has been honored with the 1978 Language Missions Exemplary Service Award.

Vandercook of New Orleans, who prevailed in his efforts "to offer a person centered approach which has become the benchmark for seamen's ministries" across the Southern Baptist Convention, received the award at the 21st annual Home Mission Board Language Missions Leadership Conference.

In the 15 years since Vandercook and his wife Catherine began their pioneering ministry in the basement of their home, thousands of seamen from dozens of nations have visited the Baptist Seamen's Center of New Orleans. More than 1,000 from 23 countries made professions of faith in Jesus Christ in one recent year, and each year, the center distributes some 2,000 Bibles in different languages and thousands of Scripture portions.

Most seamen do not make trouble, said Vandercook, whose World War II service in the U. S. Navy sensitized him to their needs. Instead, they are lonely men, far from home and often having limited knowledge of the English language and American customs.

Since beginning the New Orleans Baptist Seamen's Service, Vandercook has discovered "almost any display of interest or concern" gets re-

(Continued on page 2)



Clarke Features Bold Mission Thrust

A Bold Mission Thrust Information Center has been set up at Clarke College to provide a wide range of missions information. A pictorial display of home missions work will be featured during March and April. The first week of April, the Spiritual Emphasis Week at Clarke will take Bold Missions Thrust as its theme. Earl Kelly, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will present the challenge in Mississippi. Cecil Etheridge will share insight into home missions. J. Bryan Braington will be the Foreign Mission Board's representative. The Bold Missions Thrust committee includes J. B. Costlow, Charles Melton, and Jean Jacobs. Costlow (left), director of religious activities, and Melton, professor of religious education, are pictured.



Southern Baptist missionaries Gary Baldridge (left) and Fred Allen visit families in the Kanyama township of Lusaka, Zambia. Flooding followed heavy rains taking six lives and leaving hundreds homeless. The floods are expected to con-

tinue through the end of the rainy season in late March. The people are living in mud brick houses which often collapse in such floods. (BP) photo by Franklin A. Kilpatrick.

Southern Baptist Missionaries Aid Zambia Flood Victims

LUSAKA, Zambia (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries are cooperating with local Zambian Baptists to aid the victims of floods which have left six

Banquet For India Fellowship Is Friday

P. N. Kurien, president of the All India Prayer Fellowship, will be the speaker March 17 during a banquet in Jackson for the fellowship.

The banquet will be at 7 p.m. at McDowell Road Church.

The All India Prayer Fellowship supports a seminary and other ministries in India with cash gifts in excess of \$125,000 a year. There are no Southern Baptist missionaries in India, and all of this work is carried on by citizens of India. Kurien as president is the general director.

The Mississippi Chapter of the Executive Planning Committee includes Paul Wilson, Wilbur Irwin, W. R. Storie, C. B. Cobb, Paul S. Wood, Bill Causey, C. H. Locklin, Charles Curtis, Hal Sims, Roger Earl Ownby, Owen Lusk, Claude Townsend, Meredith W. Tatum, and Asa Luter. Cecil Harper, specialist in the Department of Church Music of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will present special music during the banquet.

Tickets may be obtained from Townsend by calling 845-6868 or 845-7785. They are \$5.

John Hilburn is the host pastor.

Minneapolis (RNS) — A district court judge has refused to allow a man to change his name to the number 1069, saying he could not give "the stamp of judicial approval" to a dehumanizing act.



Jerusalem Son Shine To Be At Cruger

Jerusalem Son Shine, youth outreach ministry group of Mt. Vernon Church, West, will be on program Sunday evening, March 19, at Cruger Church. They will be among several such groups at Holmes County Youth Night, March 18. These young people utilize dramatic skits, puppets, Christian music, and testimonies in their ministry.

'Sex Life Of Jesus' Film Not Produced

WASHINGTON (BP) — An aide to U. S. Sen. Mark O. Hatfield said the Danish filmmaker who has sought unsuccessfully to produce a movie on the alleged sex life of Jesus in several foreign countries has also failed to find a producer in the United States.

Tom Getman, legislative aide to the Oregon Republican, told Baptist Press that the filmmaker, Jens Thorsen, has turned his objective to finding a book publisher who would agree to publish a script of the film in book form. Grove Press of New York City has refused Thorsen's request to publish the book.

Thorsen has failed to have the obscene film, "The Many Faces of Jesus," produced in such nations as Britain, Israel, and Denmark. If made, the film reportedly would depict Jesus as having been sexually active in both heterosexual and homosexual relationships.

dead and hundreds homeless in Kanyama township.

Many of the people live in mud brick houses with little or no foundation, reports Franklin A. Kilpatrick, Southern Baptist missionary press representative. Many of these houses collapsed in the recent flooding, trapping the occupants inside.

Aid is being given to the victims through Zambian Baptist benevolent ministries. Several Baptist families have been affected by the floods.

Kanyama township of Lusaka is one of several unauthorized housing areas which have sprung up as thousands of

people have left the rural areas and come to the cities to seek jobs. Because the townships are unauthorized, proper drainage is not provided to protect against flooding. "Some find jobs but no adequate housing," Kilpatrick says. "They then rent or build mud brick houses in the unauthorized compounds (townships) where they live under very unhealthy conditions."

Lusaka newspapers report that the rains had been unusually heavy this year after a dry season which worsened the flooding problem. The rains and flooding will continue until the close of the rainy season late in March.

Freedom For Indians

(Continued from page 1)

tion through a process of western education and Christianization. Our tradition religious expressions were prohibited, resulting in the starvation of the Cheyenne spirit. As a consequence, the Cheyenne spirit has become frustrated to the point of collective disorientation as a Cheyenne people."

Kirk Blue Dog, counsel for the Native American Rights Fund, testified that the religious rights of Indian prisoners are consistently denied. The Indian inmates at the Federal Correctional Center at Lompoc, Calif., requested a "sweatlodge" for ceremonies. Norman Carlson, director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, said it would cost too much to build the sweatlodge and that it would increase the potential for violence in the prison.

According to Blue Dog, the sweatlodge would cost about \$25. He also told the committee that in Nebraska and South Dakota, where sweatlodges have been permitted in the prisons, disciplinary reports have decreased.

Johnson Meninick, vice chairman of the Yakima Tribal Council in Washington State, said that traditional

Indian burial practices are often denied. According to his beliefs, all body parts must be present at burial so that rebirth can take place. When an autopsy is performed some body parts are removed, which the Indians believe, prevents that individual from achieving rebirth.

Missionary 'Skycaps' For Football Star

CHICAGO (BP) — It isn't often a missionary gets the chance to "skycap" for a professional football star, then share Christian experiences with him.

But it happened to Oregon's Harold Hitt, a language missionary for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Hitt, boarding an airplane recently in Kansas City, noticed a young man in a tuxedo struggling with heavy bags and an even heavier trophy and offered to help.

Walter Payton of the Chicago Bears, 1977's premier running back in the National Football League, returning from an awards presentation, readily accepted Hitt's offer. When they departed in Chicago, Hitt again carried one of Payton's bags.

"On the way to the baggage area, Payton asked me what it had been like when I became a Christian," Hitt recalls. "I shared with him, then asked his experience."

"He related it to me, adding that his mother had always wanted him to be a Baptist preacher," Hitt said.

Quoting Payton, Hitt added: "Now, I get a lot of opportunities to speak, especially to young people. I often try to share with them what it

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — Half the inmates in Washington's jails are members of the World Community of Islam in the West — formerly known as the Black Muslims — and now they have a chaplain. Imam Mikal Huda Ba'th is the first salaried Islamic chaplain in the District of Columbia's seven detention houses.

Religious Leaders Honor Three For Service

The Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference, a religious forum with representation from 11 Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish groups in the state, has honored three Mississippians for outstanding service.

Honorees are Harold Gotthelf, Jr., Mrs. Jane Schutt, and George Owens.

Gotthelf is a founding member of the Mississippi Council on Human Relations and president of B'Nai B'Rith. Mrs. Schutt has served as a National Council of Churches volunteer counselor, and was instrumental in bringing Headstart to Jackson. Owens is president of Tougaloo College and is chairman of the Board of Homeland Ministries for the United Christian Church.

Officers for the new year include: T. B. Brown, chairman; Richard Birnholz, vice-chairman; William Wint-

er, vice-chairman; Joseph Brunini, vice-chairman; and Robert Ezell and William McKnight, co-treasurers.

Ministers To Hear Naylor At BMC

Robert Naylor, president of Southwestern Seminary, will be guest speaker March 31, at Blue Mountain College minister's alumni association annual meeting on campus.

Naylor will address the group at 12:30 at the luncheon in Ray Dining Hall.

Ministers and their wives will re-



Naylor

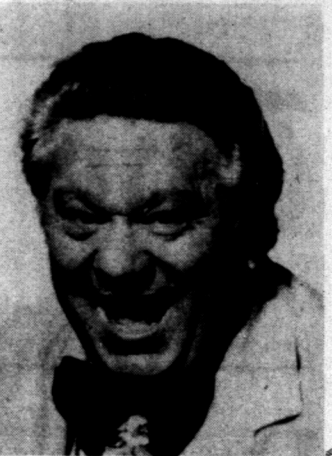
Prices Reduced On Bible Book Series

NASHVILLE — Errors in pricing procedures on the new Bible Book Series curriculum, available Oct. 1, 1978, have been corrected and prices have been lowered reports Sunday School Board president Grady C. Cothen.

"Prices for the quarterlies will be a few cents higher than the other series, because of better binding and more pages in the pupil quarterlies," he explained, "but they are now comparable with the prices of our other two Bible study curriculums."

Prices for the adult and youth pupil quarterlies were corrected and reduced to 54-cents and adult and youth teacher quarterlies were reduced to \$1.01.

The Bible Book Commentary, which accompanies the quarterlies, was approved for a price reduction to \$1.80.



Clower To Conference

Jerry Clower, country comedian and Grand Ole Opry star of Yazoo City, Mississippi, will be among the featured speakers of the Second World Conference of Baptist Men scheduled for Indianapolis, Indiana, April 5-9, 1978.

Clower is an active member of the First Baptist Church in Yazoo City and presents his Christian testimony at many gatherings.

means to be a Christian. And you know, Reverend, I think they listen to me more than if I was a preacher." Payton is a native of Columbia, Miss., and was a star running back at Jackson State University.

Seamen's Ministry . . .

(Continued from page 1)

sponse from the seamen. Yet he has struggled to gain support necessary to keep the ministry running.

Vanderhook, previously a pastor of churches at Skene, Tinsley, and Anding, Miss., was pastor of Third Street Baptist Church in New Orleans, in the heart of the riverfront area, when he began his seamen's work.

310 Ringers Perform At State Handbell Festival

Twenty-nine groups of young people represented 20 churches at the state handbell festival at Calvary Church, Jackson, March 3 and 4.

Perry Robinson, chairman of the planning committee for the festival, said there were 310 individual ringers who participated. Forty adults came with the young people, he said, plus 15 or 20 visitors of all ages. Robinson, minister of music at Salem Church, Collins, is handbell specialist for the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

First Church, Gulfport, Jimmy Cutrell, minister of music, sent five handbell groups, the largest number from any one church.

Nart Morris of Westburg Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., was guest clinician for this fourth handbell festival sponsored by the Church Music Department, Dan Hall, director.

Dewey Kyle, Huffman Road Baptist

gister at the Student Union Building from 9 to 10 a.m.

Jerry W. Stevens, president of the Minister's Alumni will deliver a message at 10 a.m.

Business session will be conducted from 10:30 until 12:30 and officers will be elected then.

A golf tournament is planned for early afternoon. Wives of ministers will have separate planned activities.

There are 92 ministers enrolled at the college. At least 500 ministers are a part of the alumni.

Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion



Virginia Beach, Va. (RNS) — The Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN) has formed a National News Division to supplement its entertainment and public affairs television programming, and has placed orders for 60 satellite earth receivers to service the top 60 U.S. markets. Through the use of the earth receivers, which are being purchased from Scientific Atlanta Corporation, CBN will offer a daily 30-minute newscast. It will later be expanded to twice daily, six days a week, and supplied to independent television stations and to network affiliates seeking alternate news sources. CBN owns and operates television stations in Boston, Atlanta, Dallas and the Tidewater area of Virginia, and six radio stations in New York State and Portsmouth, Va.

Tokyo, Japan — In one recent baptismal service, Tokyo Baptist Church baptized six young people from six different nationalities, reports Lois Whaley, Southern Baptist missionary. The church's missionary pastor, Marion Moorhead, baptized a housewife from England and an embassy employee from Holland. From Africa there was the son of the ambassador from Tanzania. A young scientist, an expert in ancient languages who had just heard God's call to preach, represented Japan. The daughter of New Zealand missionaries to Japan and the son of an American businessman rounded out the international group.

Atlanta (BP) — In response to the devastating blizzard in several states, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has sent \$10,700 in disaster relief funds to Kentucky, New York and Massachusetts.

Dallas (BP) — On the heels of substantial increases in membership and financial giving last year, the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) aims to double mission gifts in five years to help reach the world with the gospel of Christ. "By achieving the goal, our churches would give more than \$50 million for worldwide mission causes," said James H. Landes, BGCT executive director.

Washington (BP) — Overruling three dissenting justices, the U. S. Supreme Court refused to decide if a state university may deny official recognition to a homosexual student group. The high court action leaves standing a lower federal court ruling that Gay Lib, an organization of homosexuals at the University of Missouri, may not be denied such recognition, which carries with it access to university facilities for its activities.

Seamen's Ministry . . .

The Little Rock, Ark., native and his wife, Catherine, also active in the ministry, have three sons and a daughter. One son, Paul, serves as a home missionary working in seamen's ministries from a base in Gulfport, Miss., one of an estimated two dozen such programs begun since his father started the first Southern Baptist Seamen's work in 1962.

310 Ringers Perform At State Handbell Festival

Church, Birmingham, Ala., was judge.

Others on the planning committee were C. Truitt Roberts, First Church, Starkville; J. T. Hannaford, First, Moss Point; Marcus Beaver, First, Pascagoula; and Alwyn Moore, First, Philadelphia.



First, Gulfport handbell ringers directed by Jimmy Cutrell performed at the state handbell festival. The church sent five groups of ringers.

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — The world's population growth rate reached a peak around 1970 and there now appears to be a trend toward decline and stabilization, according to population experts. Nick Eberstadt of Harvard University's Center for Population Studies told a symposium here that the world's population — now 4.1 billion — was increasing at the rate of 1.9 percent in 1970 but the rate dropped to 1.7 percent last year.

Geneva (RNS) A Vatican representative told an international drug parley here that efforts to legalize so-called "mild" drugs like marijuana were ill-advised, because "abuse of mild drugs is the springboard for addiction to ever heavier drugs." Silvio Luoni was addressing the fifth special session of the United Nations' Commission on Narcotic Drugs, an agency of the 54-member UN Economic and Social Council.

Dallas (RNS) — Giving in the United Methodist Church to support minority congregations fell short of its \$5 million goal by \$3.7 million in the first year of the priority program, a Church monitoring agency reported here.

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — The 48-bishop Administrative Board of the U. S. Catholic Conference echoed Pope Paul's call for peace and disarmament in a statement here, declaring that "the spectre of technological warfare is a unique menace of the age" and that the arms race "must be stopped."

St. Louis (RNS) — Outlines for major changes in the Catholic Hospital Association that would "build a clearer Catholic identity" in Catholic health care organizations have been drawn up by a 17-member committee. The committee's report comes after two years' work on charting renewal directions for the association. "Catholic health care facilities recognize and respect the needs of the whole person, not only his physical and mental health needs as secular institutions do," the report stated. If Catholic institutions only duplicate the efforts of secular institutions, "then they should no longer exist as Catholic," the report said.

Jerusalem (RNS) — A week-long visit of a delegation of the Synagogue Council of America to Egypt marked the breakthrough of historic dimension toward renewal of ancient religious and cultural links between Judaism and Islam, "which have so much in common."

London (RNS) — A national appeal for Africa's 1,600,000 refugees — reportedly the largest number in any continent — has been launched by Christian Aid, the relief services division of the British Council of Churches. The appeal was launched at conferences in London and Edinburgh in which a 40-page report entitled "Refugees: Africa's Challenge" was distributed. The report revealed that Africa also has about 1,800,000 "returnees" — people who have been refugees but have returned to their homelands and are in need of resettlement.

Vatican City (RNS) — Vatican Radio, commenting on scholars' dispute about the date of the birth of St. Thomas More, remarked that "one day more or less, or even one year, neither adds nor takes away from More's figure as 'a man for all seasons.'" The minor dispute is over the answer to the question: Is 1977 or 1978 the 500th anniversary of the birth of the great English humanist and author of Utopia, who was minister of state under King Henry VIII? Some historians say Sir Thomas More was born on Feb. 6, 1478. The weight of scholarly opinion, however, seems to favor Feb. 7, 1477, as the date.

Baptists Share Labor, Faith

By Edd L. Brown
Men's Ministries Director
California Baptist Convention

Wheatland, Calif. is approximately fifty miles north of Sacramento, California. It is an agricultural community of approximately four thousand people surrounded by orchards and rice fields. It is normally a quiet community with little construction going on. Recently that quietness was distributed and everyone in Wheatland began to take notice of a small group called Baptist and the activity around a new building.

Rains had delayed the construction of a much needed church building for weeks but when the sun came out, so did the "Baptists". Earth moving equipment, dump truck, concrete redi-mix trucks, and 18-wheelers

began to move materials with abandon. Within two weeks the local members with other volunteers from California had poured a 40 x 125 concrete slab, erected the walls and put into place seventy roof trusses.

On Saturday, February 17, 15 men from Mississippi joined the thirty-four California volunteers and the community of Wheatland will never be the same again. For 10 days these 15 Mississippi laymen lived, worked and shared their lives with the community of Wheatland.

Every store where I went, every gas station where I stopped, and every person I talked with all asked me the same question: "Are you from Mississippi too?" The local school administrator and two non-Baptist pastors could not believe capable trained builders would take time off from their jobs, leave their families and give their time to help a small church two thousand miles away from home.

The men did roofing, wiring, plumbing, and carpentry, they also visited and witnessed in the community and lead in lay-revival services.

The layman chose one of their own to preach and share each evening from Wednesday through Sunday. There is a beautiful new building for the Southern Baptist Church in Wheatland, but there is a relationship between the church and the community and an awareness of God in Wheatland that no building could ever bring about. Only God will know how much the men from Mississippi have really done. California Southern Baptists and especially the Baptists of Wheatland are greatly indebted to Attala Baptist Association in Mississippi and to Levon Moore, associational director of missions, for what they have done for the cause of missions in California.

Excerpt From Letter To Earl Kelly

Dear Dr. Kelly...

...This activity really shook the community. I trust this is but the first in a series of events wherein our two conventions can join hands in the cause of Christ to the glory of His eternal name.

Thank you and thanks to Mississippi Baptists, and especially to this group who came and shared so effectively.

Robert D. Hughes
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
The Southern Baptist General Convention of California

Mississippians Blend Talents Across American Continent

Following is an excerpt from a report on the California trip by Levon Moore, director of missions for Attala Baptists.

Twelve men from Attala Baptist Association in Mississippi had been enlisted to volunteer for this project, and our churches had provided enough money to take care of their expenses. Two of the men and their wives, the R. E. Alldreads and Norris Wilkersons, left for California on Wednesday night, February 15, by motor home. The other ten flew out of Jackson on Saturday, February 18. The motor home arrived at the Sacramento Airport just about an hour before the larger group of men arrived by plane. Those men were Dwight Clark, Blair Goza, Bill McKnight, Bill Simpson, John Jackson, Thad Harrell, James Ragberry, Andy Cochran, James Edwards and J. V. Norris.

Hospitality
It was a real blessing for these fourteen Mississippi Baptists, representing eight Attala Baptist churches, to worship on the following day with their new friends in Wheatland Southern Baptist Church. Many of the couples provided the hospitality of their homes and the men worked along with our men throughout the week. There was John Cato, native of South Carolina and a member of the Air Force. John serves as a deacon and teaches a Sunday School class for senior high students. Ford Mink, a teacher in the high school for approximately thirteen years, was a charter member of the Wheatland Church.

Roger Patton, native of Ohio and member of the Air Force, serves as chairman of the deacons. Tom Cole, with Beale Air Force Base and a native of Eupora, Mississippi, serves as Sunday School director and music director. His wife, Karen, native of Corinth, Mississippi and a graduate of Blue Mountain College, serves as pianist. Glenn Keith, with the Air Force and native of Memphis, Tennessee, serves as chairman of the nominating committee.

Don Davis, member of the Air Force and native of North Carolina, teaches Sunday School and serves on several committees. His wife serves as church clerk.

Dedicated Couples

These dedicated young couples are representative of the committed Christians in Wheatland. They are representative also of Southern Baptists from churches in the older areas of Southern Baptist work who are good witnesses while being transplanted in the so-called pioneer sections of the nation. Couples like these are some of Southern Baptists' most effective home missionaries.

About half of the 55 resident members of the church are from families stationed at Beale Air Force Base. In addition to members of the local church, two or three retired Baptist couples from nearby towns joined our men in the work. For example, there was O. L. Wilson of Elk Grove, California and a member of First Southern Baptist Church of Sacramento. An carpenter and cabinet maker, he now devotes much of his time since retirement to assisting small missions and churches in building projects. He and his wife parked their motor home by the building site and were of tremendous help on the project.

Voris Long, native of Illinois came to California in 1935. He lives in Roseville and is a member of First Southern Baptist Church of Citrus Heights. Before retirement he was a member of the Teamsters. As an active Baptist layman, he had assisted in the building of three other mission churches before coming to work for a few days on the Wheatland Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther O'Neal of Luma, California, came toward the latter part of the week. Natives of Texas and Oklahoma, they are members of First Southern Baptist Church in Luma. He is a retired boiler maker, and she worked in housekeeping in a

hospital. Their assistance was valuable to the Wheatland project.

Their talents blended well with those demonstrated by the Mississippians. Three of our men are carpenters by trade, and one is a heating and air-conditioning contractor. The others follow vocations as widely varied as rural mail carrier, soil conservationist, and highway patrolman.

The enthusiasm of Pastor Dennis Lloyd was contagious. His knowledge of construction work, his dedication to the task of building this particular church building, and his willingness to work were assets to the achievement of the goal.

A native of Indiana, and a former member of the Armed Forces stationed in California, he is committed to his ministry in this strategic area. Dennis and his wife, Susie, had lived in Louisville, Ky., where he attended Southern Seminary. The Lloyds and their small daughter, Kelly, now live in their own home in Marysville, about eleven miles from Wheatland.

The Wheatland Southern Baptist Church was organized in February of 1977, after functioning for about four years as a mission of the Feather River Church in Marysville. It became a church about the time Dennis Lloyd became pastor in early 1977.

Services are presently held in a rented building, Frontier Hall, in Wheatland. Four Sunday School classes meet in the four corners of the large assembly area. The building also has a kitchen, small dining area and restrooms. The people are grateful for this meeting place, but it is far from adequate for the functions of a Baptist Church.

The church has a budget of over \$22,000 this year, and their missions commitment is illustrated by the fact that 13% of the budget goes for missions. **Future Prospects**

The role played by Estelle Alldread and Carolyn Wilkerson was most important. In addition to assisting with the noon meals at the building site, they were on constant alert as they visited the grocery stores, washateria, and other places of business to seek prospects for the church. These names were turned over to the pastor. Late in the week Estelle said, "Well, I found eight new prospects for them today." Their fellowship with the women of the church was mutually encouraging.

The entire experience was not without evidences of answered prayers and miracles of God. One of the most obvious was the provision of good weather. For weeks, California had suffered heavy rains, floods and mudslides. Many people prayed for good weather during the week set aside for the project. It was not accidental that high pressure systems came at the right time and remained for an entire week, providing clear skies and daytime temperatures in the seventies. Not a drop of rain fell in the area, and not a moment's time was lost because of adverse weather conditions.

Another answer to prayer came on the day the men left for California. The plane was one and one-half hours late arriving in Jackson due to mechanical difficulty suffered in Birmingham. This cut the transfer time to another flight in Los Angeles to a matter of minutes. Our men prayed that the group would be able to make the flight.

When the men told a stewardess of their mission and their problem, she said, "I'm a Southern Baptist from Florida, and I'll see what can be done." She conveyed the problem to the

Seminary Sells...

(Continued from page 1)

Center have signed lease agreements with the Mt. Moriah National Baptist congregation for temporary continued use of the property, said Brogan.

Brogan, who is also director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists, said plans for the seminary system are being formulated. The seminary owns three acres on Lynch Street in Southwest Jackson.

The Missions Task Bold Percentages

By John Alexander, Director, Stewardship Department

We are facing a crucial time in the life of Mississippi and Southern Baptists. We have committed ourselves to BOLD MISSION THRUST. The successful completion of this task will not be possible until Baptist churches are willing to boldly increase their percentage of financial support of missions through the Cooperative Program. Strong appeals are being made for churches to work at involving themselves in achieving these worthy objectives.

We are a missionary people. Since our beginning, we have been moved by a spirit of conquest. The founders of the Southern Baptist Convention brought into being a society of cooperating believers to organize a plan for eliciting, combining, and directing our energies in one sacred effort, for the propagation of the gospel. Across fifty years our people voluntarily chose to accomplish this missionary work through the Cooperative Program. This program may well be the most important single force in determining the real character of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Across the years, while various other denominations were going in this way or that, Southern Baptists have sought to remain a people on mission for God.

In the place of those denominational leaders who framed the Cooperative Program in the mid-1920's is a new generation of Baptists who do not know the foundational facts about the denominational mission program and how it developed, grew, and remains.

Too many Baptist leaders assume their church members know more about the Cooperative Program than they really do. While it is true that Baptists have more dollars through the Cooperative Program last year than in any other year in their history, the percent of total church missions gifts going to missions continues to drop. In 1926, churches averaged giving 10.88 percent of their budgeted income through the Cooperative Program. In 1975, Cooperative Program percentage giving was only 8.86 percent. If this trend continues in the future, our witness will be greatly hampered.

Dr. James Lee Powell, Jr., says, "If Cooperative Program giving had continued at the same percentage level as in 1967, churches would have given \$70,750,078 more than was actually given during the years 1967-1975. This more than \$70 million loss to Cooperative Program ministries happened over a nine-year span and was due to churches cutting back on their percentage of Cooperative Program giving."

If BOLD MISSION THRUST becomes a reality, the percentage of Cooperative Program giving must be increased. Each of us must study missions, pray for missions and missionaries, but all this falls short of the goal without a new higher percentage commitment to world missions through the Cooperative Program in church budgets.

Pastors preach about selfishness and its sinister effect on member private and family lives. Perhaps it is time for more pastors to begin preaching about the effect selfishness has on a church congregation!

If it is to be, it's up to me!

Half Of Ethnic HMB Missionaries May Qualify For Food Stamps

(Continued from page 1)

As for communication, Romo said, Southern Baptists can't expect people whose understanding of English is based on dictionary definitions to understand SBC terms, policies and "language of Zion." Often ethnics don't understand retirement options or other opportunities open to them, when they are phrased in difficult-to-understand terms.

Missionary salaries are paid jointly by Home Mission Board and state Baptist conventions, which must make joint decisions on salary and benefits. Highlights outlined in Romo's "state of language missions" message, included:

—Spanish language work has become so strong that if all Spanish congregations in the SBC organized their own convention, it would be the largest Spanish-speaking convention in the world. Three new Spanish language works begin each month.

—Ethnic missionaries have helped the Southern Baptist Convention become "the most cosmopolitan evangelical organization in the world."

—More SBC units of Vietnamese work probably exist in the U. S. today than existed in Vietnam when Saigon fell; more SBC Arab congregations probably meet in the U. S. than in the Arab world; a new Korean unit has been established each month since January, 1971, and more than 75 Korean congregations now dot the SBC; two new Chinese and two new Laotian works begin each month.

Other Baptist agencies, Romo said, also prepare materials in other languages, such as the Sunday School Board, which has added a position for persons to minister to ethnic congregations.

The momentum cannot be sustained, however, if SBC leaders and institutions "are not awakened to the realities of the American scene. We must equip people to serve in a multi-cultural, multi-lingual, transitional society," Romo said.

Southern Baptists familiar with traditional "business enterprise methodologies" cannot continue to expect "return on investments based on the predictability that we give, they grow; we tell, they do; we train, they learn; we pay, they produce," Romo said.

Nor can "we continue to operate on the assumption the melting pot exists,

in spite of the acknowledged increasing ethnicity of the nation," Romo said.

(Hullum is associate editor of Home Missions magazine.)

Jerusalem (RNS) — Plans are progressing on a major garden park system here which will include a U. S. Bicentennial project containing areas sponsored by evangelist Billy Graham, B'nai B'rith and others. Also part of the Jerusalem Gardens National Park is a \$1 million park on the slopes of the Mount of Olives being developed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon). Jerusalem Gardens will be a "green belt" of more than 600 acres surrounding and protecting the walls of the Old City. It is being developed by the National Parks Authority of Israel and the City of Jerusalem and will encompass historic area around the Old City.

Mississippi, Michigan Women Linked As Prayer Partners

A prayer partners project is linking Baptist women in Mississippi and Michigan. The yearlong emphasis has linked 50 women in each of the two states as a result of promotion by the Woman's Missionary Union.

More than 400 Mississippi women responded to the request for prayer partners, however, Michigan, which has far fewer Southern Baptists than Mississippi, only could provide 50 women.

As a Bold Mission Thrust project, Michigan was also linked to two other deep South states for prayer partners and for special mission projects.

The other women in Mississippi, not linked to Michigan women, have been asked to pray for specific mission work in the state.

Miss Frances Brown, state WMU director for Michigan, and Mrs. Charles Wilkinson, Michigan WMU president, have suggested ways in which Southern Baptists could become involved in missions in Michigan, and have compiled a list of prayer requests. These lists are available from the Mississippi WMU office in Jackson or from the local church's WMU director.

Some specific prayer requests are for the work in Pontiac, Mich., where Dwight Young, a Mississippian, is pastor; for the Clintonville church, organized in 1974 which needs \$8,000 to begin a building; and for 58 new churches and missions needed in the state.

Cooperative Ministries

Whitney, Rhodes Lead Anniversary Celebration

A special anniversary celebration for the 36th year of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary and the 25th year of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists will be held March 22, at New Mount Zion Baptist Church in Jackson.

Theme of the celebration is "Reflecting the Past, Directing the Present, Projecting the Future."

Special music will be presented by choirs from New Mount Zion Baptist Church and Woodville Heights Baptist Church.

The New Mount Zion Church is at 140 West Maple Street in Jackson. The celebration begins at 7 p.m. The public is invited.

Clyde Fant To Lecture At Midwestern

Clyde Fant, Jr., pastor of the Richardson, Texas, First Church, has been announced as the 1978 Hester Lecturer at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

The annual Hester Lectureship on Preaching, set this year for March 28-31, brings notable scholars and widely renowned preachers to the seminary campus to present a series of lectures on some aspect of the area of preaching.

Theme for the Fant lectures will be "The Pulpit: How We Got That Way." Topics, to be presented each morning, 9:50-10:50, in the seminary chapel, are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, March 28: "Ancient Voices: The Message Looks for a Medium."

Wednesday, March 29: "The Reformers: The Sermon as Sacrament."

Thursday, March 30: "The American Pulpit: Another Victim of Recent Bad History."

Friday, March 31: "The Pulpit Today: Voices in the Wilderness — and Echoes."



Whitney



Rhodes

Mississippi Baptist Seminary is a cooperative ministry of Southern and National Baptists in the state providing theological education to black Baptists in 16 extension centers.

The Department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists exists to find ways for black and white Baptists to work together in mission endeavor. This year black and white Baptists in Mississippi are cooperating in a joint evangelistic effort called "Good News Mississippi," which is designed to train persons in witnessing techniques. Next spring a statewide joint evangelistic rally is planned to kick off simultaneous revivals in black and white churches across the state.

Speakers for the anniversary celebration includes S. Leon Whitney, pastor of the New Prospect Baptist Church in Detroit, Mich.; and Lewis Rhodes, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn.

Whitney is a former pastor of Farish Street Baptist Church in Jackson and Rhodes was pastor of Daniel Memorial Baptist Church in Jackson from 1953-60.

Career Day Set For High School Students

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center will hold annual Career Day for the state's high school students on March 21.

From 2-4 p.m., students interested in entering any one of a variety of health-related fields will have the opportunity to tour the hospital facility and receive personal orientation to

any department they are particularly interested in.

Instructors in the fields of physical therapy, respiratory therapy, radiology, medical technology, and nursing will be on hand to counsel with the students.

For further information, contact Kathy Bearden, B.S.U. Director at 968-1000.

MSU Football Coach Speaks To RA Congress



Bob Tyler, head football coach and athletic director for Mississippi State University, who frequently gives his Christian testimony at various events, will be a featured speaker at the Royal Ambassador Congress to be held March 24-25 at the Mississippi College Coliseum in Clinton.

A native of Water Valley, Tyler is a member of the Starkville First United Methodist Church. Breck, one of his three sons, is on the 1978 Bulldog football team.

Since becoming head football coach at late in Nov. 1972, Tyler has recorded 33 victories, ranking him in second place behind Allyn McKeen, who won 65 contests between 1939 and 1948.

For information on the Royal Ambassador Congress, phone Rusty Griffin at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Brotherhood Department at 354-3704.

Action

First Church, Corinth recently conducted an ACTION campaign. It was the second such campaign for the church and the pastor's class proved to be an exciting time.

Eleven were enrolled in the pastor's class. Six of these came to the class regularly. Five were moved into their respective Sunday School classes. One of the five is now outreach director in one of the youth departments.

John Causey, pastor, states, "I believe one of the best things to come out of the pastor's class was the fact that these families had been out of Sunday School for a number of years and are now back in Sunday School, happy and enjoying this period of Bible study."

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Pastor-Church Relations . . .

Mistakes Can Be Overcome

Baptists are a democratic people, and we're proud of it. Actually, of course, we recognize Christ as the only head of the church; but when we face decisions, our only route to reaching a general conclusion is by majority vote. We appeal to the voters to seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Evidently, things have been going about right most of the time, for we have grown to be the nation's largest evangelical denomination. We believe in the priesthood of the believer and the resulting corollary that every corporate body is autonomous.

There is no one to tell us what to do. We come to our individual conclusions through prayer, and we come to our organizational conclusions by majority vote, presumably after prayer by the individuals who vote.

This system should work very well; and for the most part, it does.

Why doesn't it always work? Who can answer?

The strange thing is that sometimes churches and their pastors seem to arrive at positions of cross purposes, and almost invariably it is the pastor who gets hurt. He is the one who has to leave, if there is a parting of the ways. The church members remain in their jobs and maintain their home sites. The pastor has to move his family and find another field on which to serve.

This is the only answer if there is an impasse which cannot be resolved.

The question is, are things always that desperate?

Perhaps there are times when a church has failed to follow a pastor's suggestion, and he feels he has lost his leadership with the congregation. The church generally may even feel that he has made a mistake and a change is in order. It seems that in at least 75 per-

cent of such instances the pastor leaves.

Is it necessary?

Perhaps rather than going into a state of panic, a pastor facing such circumstances could admit to himself that a mistake has been made in some way, that both pastor and church could learn from the mistake, and that more than likely both pastor and people could work together to rise above the mistake and find a greater ministry together. A church, of all institutions, should be charitable and compassionate under such circumstances.

It would seem, in the majority of the cases in which a pastor feels he has to leave a church, that caution, and judicious reflection would indicate that his ministry could go on in the same place without interruption.

Granted, there are times when a pastor has completed the work that he

was to do on a certain field; but the Lord is more aware of this circumstance than either the pastor or the people. With a little patience, the situation could be worked out smoothly and with no harm coming to anyone involved.

There just don't seem to be many instances when a church would have to force a pastor to leave. If the members of the church are not attending because of the pastor, then they should be ashamed of themselves.

Effectual, fervent prayer on the part of all concerned can straighten out a lot of problems, and the ministry can go on as it should.

The plea to the church member would be this: allow your pastor a mistake or two along the way. You will make your share of them as you labor together.



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

I first met Rosargentina de Pinel-Cordova in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, in November of 1974, in the Hotel Maya.

Flame trees and poinsettias splashed the streets with scarlet. From high up in the hotel I could see the red-tiled rooftops of the city cupped in circling mountains. (It was possible to get a better view than I did for two sides of my room were glass. But I didn't dare stand closer to the windows. They hinged outward at floor level and there was nothing whatsoever to keep me from falling 15 stories if I happened to stumble.)

In the lobby of the hotel Margaret Fry and I were talking to two missionaries, Wayne Wheeler and Ralph Wilson. A blithe and beautiful blonde came in and started talking to the men. She was dressed in an expensive-looking navy and white pantsuit, and navy blouse. She wore a large diamond ring and a pendant in the shape of a cross.

Southern Baptists had been helping in relief efforts in Honduras that fall following Hurricane Fifi, and this charming woman with sparkling brown eyes was bubbling over with extravagant praise for "the Baptists."

The missionaries introduced her, but I was glassy-eyed from lack of sleep and didn't really pay full attention to what they were saying.

After she left, Wayne Wheeler said, "That was Rosargentina de Pinel-Cordova, consul-general from Honduras to the United States." I was sorry then that I had not made a greater effort to follow the conversation and get to know her better.

Afterward I heard bits of her story, how she had been a member of a Catholic church, as are many in her native Honduras, but that she was not happy and was searching for God. She was of the wealthy class and well-educated. Her father was at one time president of Honduras.

She had married an American and in her job as consul-general was living in San Antonio.

On one visit to Honduras she had asked one of the Southern Baptist missionaries, "Why is it that you always seem to be so happy?" He told her that Christ had brought joy to his life, and he suggested that she go visit the First

Baptist Church in San Antonio. She did go to that Baptist church, where Jimmy Allen is pastor. When she first saw the large crowd she wondered if she had come to the right place. She had always thought that Baptists were a small group, and

Re: Rosargentina

expected to see only a few people present. But she was attracted by the enthusiasm she saw in the people's faces and that she heard in the singing, and stayed for the service.

She made an appointment to have lunch with Jimmy Allen, to talk with him about her search for meaning in life. But before she could keep the engagement she had a very real conversion experience and on a Sunday night joined the Baptist church in San Antonio and asked to be baptized.

I was at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, on March 3 for the meeting of the Agricultural Missions Foundation. Larry Otis said, "Here is someone I want you to meet." It was Rosargentina de Pinel-Cordova. She was every bit as excited about her Christianity and about Southern Baptists as she was when I first met her four years ago.

This time I did get to talk with her personally and she said, "The Lord has let me speak in 79 Baptist churches and give my testimony." I knew that she had spoken at the Southern Baptist Convention and at many meetings across the country.

She could not stop talking about the Lord's goodness to her. That night she had needed to talk to a certain person, and it had worked out just the way she had hoped. "The Lord did it!" she told me. She put her arm around my shoulders and said, "Just ask Him, and you will receive!"

Tina, as she is called by her friends, said that before she became a Christian she thought that the poorer classes were just people who worked for her. Now she knows that all people are the same and she wants to reach out and love all of them. She is continually seeking ways to help the people of her country, in all levels.



Eugene Grubbs, left, of the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, and Rosargentina de Pinel-Cordova, center, of San Antonio, Tex., consul-general from Honduras, spoke at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, on March 3. They addressed those attending the annual meeting of Agricultural Missions Foundation, Ltd. Jerry Bedsole, agricultural missionary from Ethiopia, another of the speakers, said that he plans to return there just as soon as the door reopens. Rollie Ennis, agricultural missionary from Tanzania, and James Gilbert, missionary to Ecuador, were also on the program. Grubbs expressed appreciation for the prayers and other support the Foundation gives to agricultural missionaries. Owen Cooper, at right above, is president of the AMF Board.

Book Reviews

and recollections of others. In telling the story as though her father were writing it she has produced a fascinating "autobiography."

HEARTWARMERS by Jim Henry (Broadman, 155 pp., \$4.95) Jim Henry is pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla. One observer said that the preacher is inseparable from his message. This is doubly true with Jim Henry. His messages are down-to-earth, pointed, practical, helpful "heartwarmers." Some of them in this book are: When Your Number Is Up,

Good News from a Cemetery, Help of the Helpless, and Joy to the World.

EATING YOUR WAY TO GOOD HEALTH by Jean G. Wade and Helen Koolman Hosler (Fleming Revell, 128 pp., \$5.95) God has entrusted each of us with the responsibility of caring for our physical bodies, and these bodies need the right nutritional balance in diet. Authors of a new book about eating give basic principles designed to help us know what food to buy and how to buy it in the most economical way and with the most nutritional content.

Civil Rights For Gays . . .

Trying To Ride Broad Issue

In the matter of civil rights there is as much difference between racial equality and the rights of overt and announced homosexuals as there is between a hospital operating room and a pig sty. There is no comparison to be drawn.

The active and open homosexuals, however, are trying to ride in on the coattail of the broad civil rights issue and force the public to accept them on an equal basis.

They live an unnatural and deviant life style; and they are trying to say to the world, you are not only going to have to put up with us, you are also going to have to accept us right along beside you in every profession and occupation that there is.

And some who are not homosexual are out beating the drums for just this

sort of acceptance. They would seem to be forgetting or ignoring the fact that an active homosexual is one who is also telling the world that he or she is engaging in unnatural and illicit sexual activities. They are not even hiding behind the discretion that is usually the pattern of a man and a woman who are finding sexual partnership outside of marriage.

Certainly they must have housing, and certainly they must have work to pay for their upkeep. They need to understand, however, that there are certain areas of occupation that if they are to be accepted as participants they must keep their homosexual tendencies from the eyes of the world.

This is not to condone secret homosexuality, of course. It is to say that if a homosexual person refuses to give up this lifestyle and wants to be

accepted on an equal basis, he or she should have to keep that situation completely hidden.

It would be much better if the homosexual would take the matter before the Lord and be relieved of it.

Not all of them have any interest in religion, however, and many who don't are militant. Singer Anita Bryant declares that her career before secular audiences has just about closed down since she led the fight in Miami last year which defeated a gay rights bill by a 2 to 1 majority. A story from Religious News Service points out that she has lost every secular booking she had since that election. Homosexuals disrupt every secular performance, and promoters fear them.

The RNS story quotes the Gay Community News in Boston as declaring that "we should not rest until Anita

Bryant is utterly destroyed." This is the type of people being dealt with in the matter of rights for homosexuals.

Can they not realize that they hold the answer to public acceptance within themselves? They cannot force themselves upon the public. They can, however, make themselves fit for public acceptance. The place to start is on their knees.

A very real fear is that open acceptance of homosexuality could lead to a further breakdown of the home. If homosexuals can announce openly their sinful ways and be accepted, then those engaged in male-female relationships outside of marriage might begin to be more bold in proclaiming their involvements. If that happens to a great degree among married couples, then the foundation of family life will be severely damaged.

Letters To The Editor

Annuity Stewardship

Dear Editor:

For 19 years, it was my privilege to represent the Annuity Board and its program in Florida. During this time I went all over Florida telling our people about the unexcelled programs offered our churches, agencies and institutions.

Last year I retired, and for over a year I have received the benefits of my own participation in these programs. The benefits I have received have more than met my expectations. Over 30 years ago I began participation in the program. At the same time, I invested in two other retirement programs with two well-known commercial companies. When I retired, these two companies began paying exactly what they had promised in my contracts; however, the benefits I receive from the Annuity Board are almost twice as much as I was promised.

Because the Annuity Board is a non-profit trust agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, it is in a position to provide larger amounts for less money. Like any other good investment, the more money you place in the program, the larger your return. Experience has shown that a minimum investment of 10 percent of total compensation for each individual is the best way to provide adequate retirement income. The majority of pastors, church staff members, agency and institution personnel will live to retire. The income received is dependent on what is being done NOW.

As one who is receiving the benefits of good stewardship from churches and the Convention, I would strongly urge our churches to move into the 10-plus program and give salaried personnel the peace of mind that comes in knowing that someone cares.

Phil Maxwell
Jacksonville, Florida

Deception in Evangelism

Dear Editor,

I was disturbed by the headlines in the last issue of Baptist Record which stated that "Baptist, Jew Agree. . . ." How could Brother Allen or Rabbi Tannenbaum, or anyone else, accuse the Jews for Jesus of not letting people know exactly what they stand for? It might not be clear to a Jew what Baptists stand for. . . . John The Baptist? or Baptism? or Jesus? . . . but: Jews For Jesus could mean no-

thing else. It's in their title, on their T-shirts, on their sound truck, etc. They are "Jews for Jesus"! Of course they are a Jewish Sect. They are the sect which believes and accept Jesus as their promised Messiah.

Have you known any of them personally? I can't believe that you have. Naturally the Jewish leaders who deny Christ are offended by them. However, I find it hard to believe that you would add to their persecution with headlines in our state paper that would condemn them. The areas Bro. Allen found to agree on sound about like my saying that I have areas of similarity to a communist in that, I have two eyes and so do they; I have one nose, so do they, etc.!

Some of my very dear friends are Jewish, and I love them and pray for them, and weep for them in the night. I would love to see them become Jews for Jesus.

Harriet Stovall (Mrs. P. S.)
Hollandale
Perhaps the headline was misleading. The news item seemed to indicate that Jimmy Allen and Marc Tannenbaum didn't agree on much of anything. Allen did agree that deception in evangelism is immoral, but he did not agree that Jews for Jesus are practicing deception. Sometimes it is hard for a headline to convey the complete meaning of a story.

Fastest Growing

Dear Sir:

In response to the Rev. Mr. Jerry Mixon's letter in the March 4 edition of the Baptist Record, I would like to say "Right On, Brother."

The letter took courage, I'm sure. Thanks a lot for a point well made.
Eunice J. Campbell
Vicksburg, MS.

Testimony From Prison

Dear Editor:

I write to you in hopes that you will print my name and address in your Christian paper so that I'll be able to write to Christians throughout the state of Mississippi that feel they are headed down the wrong walks of life. Maybe I'll be able to help young people all over the state not to make the same mistakes that I've made and have to come here!

I found Christ as my personal Savior about two and a half months ago right here in this small 6 x 9 cell, and believe

me I've never before known that a person in prison could really find any sort of peace or happiness even if he or she were a Christian. But I'm one who has found it to be more than just a small cell to do time in. I found out that if a person really wants to change his life he can no matter where you are or what you are doing in life.

Even a Christian is lonely at times because he or she is a human being.

You must be born again in order to become a Child of God. And I thank God Almighty for the chance He has given unto me to one day be awarded the highest pardon of all!

May God bless and thank you.

Ronnie M. Johnson
M. S. U. No. 37161
Parchman, MS 38738

Note of Appreciation

Dear Mr. McGregor:

We would like to express our appreciation to our many Mississippi Baptist friends who have extended so generously their prayers, cards, and letters of concern to us recently due to the death of our 23-year old daughter, Sue Lynn Johnson. The shock of the tragedy, of course, left us drained, but the presence of our Lord has sustained us through these days. It was with deep gratitude that we knew our friends were standing with us in prayer during this time and we were able to draw extra strength in knowing it.

It would be impossible to acknowledge the many, many expressions which we have received; but we are indeed grateful, and we request continued prayers as we learn to live with our loss.

Thank you very much.
Rev. and Mrs. M. C. Johnson
(Director of Missions)
Holmes-Leflore Baptist Association

Invitation To Worship

Dear Editor:

Each year many Baptists come to Nassau for vacations, and I'm sure some of these are from Mississippi. I would like to extend an invitation to those who are here on Sundays to worship with us at Central Baptist Church.

Our church was organized by Southern Baptist missionaries in 1957 and has been served by missionaries, as pastors, for most of these years. My wife and I are serving as associate missionaries with the Foreign Mission

HIGHER GROUND by Eloise Glass Cauthen (Broadman, paper, \$3.95, 224 pp.) This biography of the late Wiley B. Glass, missionary to China, was written by his daughter, who is the wife of Baker James Cauthen, executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board. It is her first book. Mrs. Cauthen was born in China while her parents were missionaries there. Though her father kept diaries of his work, none of them could come out of China under wartime restrictions. But he had a good memory and often talked of his experiences. Eloise made notes and combined these with letters

Moorhead Teacher Moves To Japan

Mrs. Nell Bradley Kincade of Moorhead has begun work as volunteer missionary in Japan, with the Zama Baptist Church in Tokyo.

She is a retired teacher.

Mrs. Kincade began teaching piano and class room music in 1934 at Moorhead and continued to do so until 1967. From 1967 through 1973 she taught piano at Indianola Academy until October of 1977 she taught private piano lessons.

She received her B.S. in piano and vocal music from MSCW. Since 1934 she has served the Moorhead Church as pianist and assistant organist.

Her son Bob is a member of the First Baptist Church, Greenville, and an en-

tomologist with Chevron Chemical Co. Her son Paul of New York City is a medical research scientist.

Mrs. Kincade has since 1965 traveled to the major countries of the world. In 1969 she began to search for an avenue of service using her music training and experience. With the aid of her pastor, Granville H. Watson, Jr., she began to make application for some type of church-related work.

Being encouraged by her friends in spite of the fact that several doors were closed, she approached the Foreign Mission Board in 1973. She began correspondence with associate missionaries, Charlie and Elizabeth Ray, in Bangkok, Thailand. (Ray was a former pastor of the Moorhead Church.) While the Rays were home on furlough in 1976-1977 final plans were made for Mrs. Kincade to join them on the mission field at their new assignment. They departed in August of 1977 for their new assignment, the Zama Church in Tokyo. On October 25 Mrs. Kincade boarded a non-stop flight from New York to Tokyo.

She is minister of music of the English-speaking Zama Church. She is the choir director for the adult and children's choirs, and is instrumental for all the church services. Also on Wednesday afternoons she teaches piano lessons at the church.

Thursday evenings are taken up by her language classes. One day a week she travels to downtown Tokyo to work in the library of the Foreign Mission Board office with Hazel Watson who is the missionary librarian. She also plays for the Japanese Baptist Church which meets at the Zama Baptist Church.

Recently she wrote to Granville Watson, who is now director of missions for Sunflower County Association, and said, "I am staying busy and enjoying every minute of it. Today has been a beautiful day. I was well able to see the top of Mt. Fuji from my bedroom window early this morning. Maybe I will try to climb it before I leave Japan."

150 Decisions During Thai Exhibition

BANGKOK, Thailand — More than 150 people expressed interest in learning more about Christianity during a three-day exhibition on "The Meaning of Christmas" sponsored by the Baptist Student Center here. About 3,000 people toured the exhibition and watched films.

Some of those attending the exhibit accepted Christ, reported Maxine (Mrs. Robert R.) Stewart, Southern Baptist missionary press representative. Many others who indicated they wanted to learn about Christ were counseled, and plans were made to provide teaching for them, Mrs. Stewart said.



Baptists On National Television

Planning an NBC Palm Sunday worship service from Broadway Church, Fort Worth, March 19 are (from left) Paul M. Stevens, president, Radio and Television Commission; Miss Doris Ann of New York, manager, religious programs, NBC News, and C. Welton Gaddy, Broadway pastor, who will preach. The workshop service, produced by NBC in cooperation with the Radio and Television Commission, will be aired from 10 to 11 a.m., central time. — Radio-TV Commission photo by Rachel Colvin

Party Centers On WMU Centennial

WMU Focus Week activities at First Church, Moss Point, centered around a birthday party on Feb. 13, commemorating the 100th anniversary of Mississippi WMU.

Jan Cossitt, minister of activities, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, presented monologues dramatizing events of the administrations of two past presidents of Mississippi WMU.

Frances Smira, state WMU president, Jackson, addressed the group. Her daughter, Marty Perkins, is Baptist Young Women president at Moss Point.

Marjean Patterson, state executive secretary of WMU, announced the production of her book, *Covered Foundations*, which outlines the 100 years' history of Mississippi WMU and will be available during the state convention.

The program was concluded by a salad luncheon. A birthday cake made by Mary Miller, was served. Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women

from churches in Jackson County Association were guests.

Peggy Davis, WMU Centennial Chairman for FBC, Moss Point, announced their organization had attained recognition for Advanced Level of Achievement for the past year and had a fully graded program of activities for Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Acteens, Baptist Young Women and Baptist Women as well as sponsoring Royal Ambassadors for boys, grades 1-6. She further noted that local WMU Mission Action emphasizes included seamen's ministry, work with other internationals, and illiteracy programs.

On the preceding Sunday, Miss Cossitt and Miss Patterson presented a puppet show describing the various opportunities for missions involvement offered by WMU.

Pastor of the church is Bobby C. Perry. His wife, Sue, is WMU director, and Martha Whitt is WMU director-elect.



Sojourner Sharon Warren from Senatobia makes the rounds of campsites in Russellville, Ark. (Photo by Jim Wright).

Teens Weren't Too—

(Continued from page 1)

Mike Robertson, the Home Mission Board staffer who relates to Sojourners through the Department of Special Missions Ministries, tell about the program.

"For the past year I considered working in missions somewhere, and then God led me to do this."

Deadlines for application had long passed but filled with the spirit of the week and without plans for the summer, Teri asked if she could apply late. Swayed by her earnest appeal, Robertson said go ahead.

"I wondered what my parents would say and if they would let me do it," says Teri. "I just prayed if God wanted me to do this, he'd work everything out for me financially and every way."

Her mom and dad, understanding "this is what I felt led to do," granted permission. Yet some Sunday mornings after her application had been accepted and she was ready to leave, from her seat in the choir loft of Lost Mountain Baptist Church in Powder Springs, Ga., Teri would see her mother, "a very emotional person," with tears in her eyes.

This was to be the first time away from family for Teri.

Although her father agreed to pay her expenses, Teri raised money by staging a car wash with the youth of the church and selling home cleaning products door-to-door.

Teri and Sharon, brought by their parents, arrived in Russellville, Ark., in early June. Their assignment was resort missions, under the supervision of Jack Riley of First Baptist Church, Russellville.

In the quiet community of 14,000 in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains, Riley discovered, was a hidden population of tourists who flooded through the town in the summers on their way to Lake Dardanelle.

Since he wanted to begin a ministry to the campers in the area, he recruited summer missionaries — only to find all those assigned to Arkansas were already allocated to other associations.

He was told about Sojourners... and applied for and got Teri and Sharon. Later, two summer missionaries were assigned to Russellville when another sponsor backed out.

At first Teri and Sharon were nervous, wondering what it would be like, leaving friends and family. But as soon as they arrived in Russellville, even though it was very different from home, they felt better.

The Sojourners and the summer missionaries quickly moved into the mainstream of First Baptist activities.

Soon the church's young people began to reflect their commitment.

"Our kids are saying, 'If Teri and Sharon can do it, maybe I can too,'" said Riley.

"I've already heard one of our youngsters say he wants to be a Sojourner next summer."

Yet things didn't always run smoothly. One morning while leading the song "Deep and Wide," Sharon became so confused in the hand motions, the rest of the team broke up laughing as Sharon "deeped" when she should have wided.

And again, her innocent reply to a pre-teen's questions... "Christ?" Sharon said, puzzled. "Oh, that's Jesus' last name."

Despite some setbacks, the children in the camping areas, benefited from the Bible classes. One man said, "We've been here for the last few days and haven't had anything special for our children until you came along. We sure appreciate what you are doing."

Sharon and Teri are leaders in their schools, said one of their summer missionary co-workers. "But I don't think that brought out their abilities as much as being out here on the field."

The other missionary stresses, "I've been surprised at their maturity."

Yet sometimes the Sojourner program is self limiting. When the summers are so much fun, who will give up their summer? And they don't get paid. They don't even get expenses. They have to be really dedicated. The person will filter out somebody who's wishy-washy in a minute, said one worker.

Neither Sharon nor Teri are that, as they certainly proved — as counselors of teenagers only slightly younger than themselves, at the associational youth camp, and at Zuin, N. M., where they went with the Russellville youth on a mission tour.

Both Teri and Sharon insist the summer was worth the effort.

"Before I came out here," Teri explains, in a quiet moment, "I thought being a missionary was going out a long way to do something. But now I

believe being a missionary is just being yourself in Christ. And showing God's love. No matter where you are."

Sharon, in evaluating her summer, reflects, "I feel like I've proved myself. The summer has really given me a broader wider viewpoint on missions. I've worked with so many different people, and had so many different experiences. I felt like I could do anything."

"With God's help," Sharon insists, "I could accomplish anything."

(Adapted from *AND A CAST OF THOUSANDS*, copyright by the Home Mission Board, SBC, 1978. Written by Everett Hulsum and Celeste Loucks.)

(NOTE: For more information on Sojourners write Special Mission Ministries, Home Mission Board, 1350 Spring St., NW, Atlanta, GA 30309. Sojourners must have completed his/her junior or senior year of high school and be 25 years of age or younger. Transportation to and from the field must be provided by parents, friends, and/or individual. Sojourners will be assigned to their home state or adjoining state. If finances allow, more distant assignments may be made.)

Albany, N. Y. (RNS) — In a unanimous decision by the 18 members present, the New York State Board of Regents voted to deny a charter to the Unification Church's theological seminary in Barrytown.

Baptists Rebuild In Guatemala, Leave Lasting Impressions

By John J. Hurt

GUATEMALA CITY (BP) — Guatemala Baptists, both local leaders and missionaries, agree that Southern Baptists gave a major boost to Christianity by relief work following the disastrous earthquake of February 1976 and by work teams which came to rebuild churches and houses.

"I think this is the best response Baptists have ever done," says A. Clark Scanlon, Middle American field representative for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board who has had the major role in Baptist response since the quake that killed 23,000 persons and left millions homeless. He has told in detail of the Baptist response in his book, "Hope in the Ruins," just released by Broadman Press.

"Their coming has been a great blessing," says Demetrio Camey, pastor of Damasco Baptist Church in Guatemala City. Volunteer crews from the states rebuilt his church auditorium, lost in the quake.

Isidro Hernandez, president of the Guatemala Baptist Convention, is appreciative of the more than \$724,000 sent through the Foreign Mission

Board and the work crews, but adds that possibility the greatest benefit was "teaching participation" by the men who came for reconstruction and "the fellowship we enjoyed."

Southern Baptist relief work gave prestige to the Baptist name and made friends. It also gave a boost to the openness of the people. Five new churches were organized last year, increasing the number to 62, and there were more than 700 baptisms. Scanlon says the ratio of baptisms to members has been running at six or seven to one since the earthquake.

Guatemala Baptist Seminary Pres-

ident Jorge Enrique Diaz says that "it gave prestige to the whole Christian group. It opened avenues for communication of the gospel."

Baptist churches now have been rebuilt along with hundreds of homes and Scanlon expects reconstruction projects to be finished by year's end. Meanwhile, Baptists are concentrating their efforts in Santo Domingo, 25 miles from Guatemala City in the mountains.

Hurt, retired editor of Texas Baptist Standard, is touring Southern Baptist mission work in Middle America and the Caribbean.

More Teams Are Needed

James Cecil of the Foreign Mission Board has given guidelines for enlisting persons to go to Guatemala June 25-July 8 for further rebuilding of churches.

Each team should have one to three fluent Spanish-speaking men. The maximum number to go is 24.

The greatest need is for blocklayers

— the group must have one professional blocklayer for every four persons and at least seven out of 10 must be able to lay brick. Only one professional carpenter per team is needed.

For specific information on how a Baptist layman can participate, call or write, Paul Harrell, Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, phone 354-3704.

Membership Hotline Keeps Them Informed

WEST COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP) — Northside Baptist Church, West Columbia, S. C., has developed a new tool for sharing information and special prayer requests with the membership.

The service, called NBC News-line, lists a phone number connected to a recording device. Members can call 24 hours a day to learn who is in the hospital, get progress reports of critically ill or surgery patients, and learn of funeral plans, activity schedules, special prayer requests and other information or promotion of the church's programs.

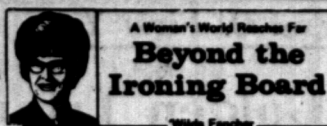
"When members call, they get a recorded message that varies in length from 20 seconds to one mi-

nute," explains Lonnie Shull, pastor of the 1,700 member church. "We feel that by our members being able to use their phone once or twice a day they can be knowledgeable about the church family in a way that allows them to express Christian concern and carry out ministry promptly. With members scattered in two counties we just cannot rely on word of mouth to get matters of prayer to all who are interested."

"The recorded message is updated as often as five times daily. The only church expenses incurred for the service are the simple telephone answering device and an extra telephone line into the church."



First Church, Moss Point had a birthday party during WMU Focus Week to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Mississippi WMU. State and local WMU leaders cut the centennial cake. Left to right: Marjean Patterson, Frances Smira, Jan Cossitt, Peggy Davis, and Sue Perry.



Our missions emphasis seasons are always exciting to me. Usually I get to teach the books several times, so I learn more than I would otherwise. I'm reminded each time of the marvelous dedication that is involved in following missions as a career. But this time I've been made aware that it is equally as demanding to follow missions as a lay person, both appointed and not appointed — people who volunteer to do mission work to help in the work of the appointed missionary.

And I've been reminded, too, of how hard it is to interpret missions and involve oneself in missions on a practical basis. For instance, I get quite caught up in yearning for the Japanese I saw in Japan placing pieces of paper with prayers on them on a tree so that when the wind blew their god would hear the rustle of their prayer, to come to know a God who needs no rustling breeze to be aware of His child's needs. But becoming involved with Japanese who live in my community doesn't seem so urgent or exciting.

No problems present themselves to me on trips when opportunities are given to contribute to Indian missions in the painted country of the Grand Canyon and Taos Reservations. But it is harder to be aware that God wants me to forget the gorgeous colors of the desert and remember the beautiful colors of skin in which Indian souls live, much closer by my house.

Somehow, it is really difficult to bring missions "home" with me, to see missions where I live.

But the most important impression I've had this Home Missions Season of Prayer is that if we have locked in on a certain amount of money to give to the missions offering each year, for the same amount of money accomplishes less and less each year. So, our personal gift will increase substantially this year.

And when I get an urge to respond to a mission thought, I will be able to say, "I have already responded. I am a part of that mission work. I gave."

Jerusalem (RNS) — The Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs has taken over legal control of Holy Sites on Mount Zion to safeguard them from encroachment by a controversial Jewish educational institution there, known as the Diaspora Yeshiva. Protected by a contract signed by the Ministry and the Land Authority are the traditional site of the Tomb of King David, the traditional site of the Last Supper, and another Christian shrine called the room of the Holy Spirit.

End Of First Year

'Golden Triangle' Program Is Functioning Well. . .

Golden Triangle Baptist Missions program has completed one year of ministry. This missions program includes Clay, Lowndes and Oktibbeha Associations.

On February 15, 1977, J. C. Mitchell moved to the area as the first director of missions for the newly organized program which involves 50 churches.

After one year the program is well established and functioning with headquarters in a fully furnished and equipped four - room office suite in downtown Columbus.

Provision for the director of missions, the associational office and numerous joint program projects is made through a joint budget supported by all three associations. At the same time each association maintains a program of work with its own budget and calendar of activities.

The Golden Triangle Baptist Mis-

sions Program is supporting a six-fold approach to mission involvement listed by Mitchell as (1) an enhanced and broadened fellowship among the churches, (2) a development of greater awareness of mission need, (3) an increase of mission support through interest, prayer, finances, and personal involvement, (4) church development, (5) providing resources and program interpretation, and (6) discovery of and attempting to meet local mission needs.

Mitchell said, "We feel a great challenge in our area since we have two state universities as well as the Columbus Air Force Base in our associations. Also, we are directly in the path of development of the Tennessee - Tombigbee Waterway. We have many great churches among which are the three First Baptist Churches of West Point, Columbus, and Starkville."



Golden Triangle leaders are pictured in the Inner Room which serves as Office for the director of missions. Left to right—Ed Deuschle, moderator, Oktibbeha Association; Jerry W. Stevens, moderator, Lowndes Association; Ray Walters, moderator, Clay Association; J. C. Mitchell, director of missions for the joint program.



Mrs. J. C. Mitchell, office secretary, is pictured in the secretary - reception room of the office suite in Columbus.

Education Commission Gives Memorial For Mrs. Kelly

The Education Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board has voted to give \$500 out of its operating funds in memory of Mrs. Earl (Amanda) Kelly for the ministerial education fund administered by The Baptist Foundation.

Commission members include Kermit D. McGregor, E. R. Jobe, Larry W. Kennedy, Billy Thames, Leon Young, William Crosby, Charles Holladay, W. H. Johnson, Odean Puckett, Fred Fowler, John Roberts, and Tom Watts.

Organist Compiles Info On Noxubee Musicians

Mrs. W. W. Whitten, organist at First Church, Macon, has compiled a typewritten book on "Church Musicians of Noxubee County," containing information from earliest records to 1972.

Not every church answered her queries, she says, but all of the Baptist churches cooperated. These include First Church, Macon, Calvary, West Side, Elon, Shuqualak, Brooksville, Concord, Mashulaville, Ruhama, Deerbrook, and Vernon.

The book lists singers and song books, instrumentalists, programs, interesting incidents, pictures, biographical sketches and shows the trend of hymnody and church music through a hundred years, and more in some congregations.

Prepared at the request of the Noxubee County Historical Society, and only recently completed, the manuscript of 108 pages is in the Ada Sessions Fant Public Library, Noxubee County, Macon.

Carey To Honor Alumni In Church-Related Vocations

William Carey College alumni who are in church-related vocations will be honored in special pre-Homcoming activities on Friday evening, March 31.



Kelly

"Food, fun and fellowship will be enjoyed in an atmosphere of 'dinner on the ground' in Wilkes Hall at 6 PM," commented Don Stewart, chairman of the department of religion and program chairman.

Earl Kelly and Sidney Buckley will

be the featured personalities. The Alumnus of the Year will be presented.

Kelly is executive secretary for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and Buckley is a Carey alumnus now involved in the private music concert field. He was formerly minister of music at First, Gulfport.

Assisting in welcoming the church-related alumni will be members of the William Carey College student Ministerial Association and their wives, as well as all members of the Carey religion and philosophy department faculty: Stewart, William Clawson, Jerry Oswalt, Dorman Laird, Ralph Noonkester, and Mrs. Marjorie Rowden.

Scholarship Fund At MC Will Help Business Majors

The Mississippi College alumni class of 1957 has established a memorial scholarship fund at the college in memory of the late James Greenoe, to help needy students majoring in business.

Greenoe, who died Feb. 19, was president of the Mississippi College New Orleans Alumni Chapter and a deacon in First Church, New Orleans. He is survived by his wife Mary Ann and a son Steve.

Contributions to the fund are tax deductible and may be sent to the Mississippi College Alumni Office, Box 4027, Clinton, Ms., 39058.

First, Laurel Schedules Puppet Seminar

A seminar on the usefulness of professional - quality puppets as effective instructional tools is scheduled at First Church, Laurel, on Monday, April 3, from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

The three and one-half hour training session will be conducted by professional puppeteers from Puppet Productions, Inc., a California company that has trained more than 45,000 persons in similar sessions.

Seminar sizes are limited to insure adequate personal attention so early registration is recommended. Individual registration fees are \$15.00 with reduced rates available for groups and families. For additional details and registration information, contact Richard Workman at (601) 428-8404.

Kerr To Lead Workshop On Nursing Homes

Horace Kerr from the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville and a former Mississippian, will be among the personnel who will lead March and April workshops on ministering to the aging.

Methodist Senior Services in cooperation with the Governor's Council on Aging will conduct three workshops on the theme, "Building a Caring Community in the Nursing Home." The workshops are designed for members of the clergy and nursing home employees, but any interested persons are invited.

Kerr will be the resource person for the first workshop, March 27-28, at Trace Manor, Tupelo. He is supervisor of the Senior Adult Ministry Section, Family Ministry Department, Baptist Sunday School Board.

Duncan Clark, director, Region Three Mental Health Complex, Tupelo, will be the resource person for the other two workshops - April 10-11 at Jackson Mental Health Center, Jackson, and April 24-25 at University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park Center, Long Beach.

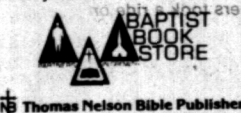
To register, or get more information, contact John Humphrey, Jr., Methodist Senior Services, 2800 West Main, Tupelo, MS 38801.

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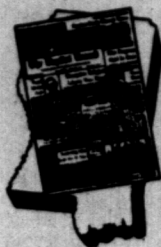
MADRID, Spain — Bank officials had a hard time believing that the Villaverde Baptist Church here had a membership of only 64 persons when the Christmas offering for missions was deposited. The small congregation gave \$1,415.92 in special gifts, plus their weekly offerings during December when the missions offering

was collected. The church treasurer, Miguel Angel Bravo, told the bank teller it was a tithe and it was given voluntarily. "I can't believe that people would give a tenth of their money without some kind of pressure," the teller said. "You must have discovered a secret."



Committee To Head Annual Fund

Blue Mountain College has named an executive committee for its annual fund which is designed to generate income to meet additional college needs created by an enlarged student body. A goal of \$75,000 for the remainder of 1978 has been set by the committee which was hosted at BMC by school president E. Harold Fisher (standing, middle). Committee members included (seated, L-R) Gordon Sansing of Pentecost, Mrs. Pat Crews of New Albany and A. T. Wright of Tupelo (Standing, L-R) Jerry Stevens of Columbus and James Walker of Ripley.



Just For The Record



A BAPTISTRY SCENE OF RIVER JORDAN was given to Chester Church, Ackerman, in honor of Mrs. J. L. Cutts, left, on her birthday, by her brothers and sisters. Many of her family came for the presentation, from as far as Hawaii, Texas, and Georgia. Mrs. Cutts has been a member of the church 59 years. For 21 years she was church clerk; she has taught Sunday school, served in associational offices, and is now WMU centennial chairman and on the church nominating committee. Pastor Gwin H. Middleton, right, presented the plaque to be placed beneath the baptistry scene.



CORINTH CHURCH, Heidelberg, has a jug almost full of pennies, a beginning on the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions. A goal of \$200 has been set. In excess of \$1,400 was given for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which topped the goal. Nickels, dimes and dollars are collected throughout the year for this offering on birthdays and anniversaries. Edd Holloman is pastor.



NEW PALESTINE, PICAYUNE, honored pastor HARRY BARNES on Pastor Appreciation Day with a money tree. The tree had been liberally foliated with individual gifts from the church family. Barnes' appreciation was evident as he defoliated the tree. (Various church members requested "cuttings" from the tree for possible transplanting at their homes.)



WOOLMARKET CHURCH, BILOXI has dedicated a new pastorium. The home contains three bedrooms, two baths, living room, dining room and kitchen. A fourth bedroom and bath have a private entrance as a guest or prophet's room. Building Committee members were back row: Johnny Brumley, Gerald Barnes, John Sherman, Artie Quave, Chairman, Jerry Cook. Front row: Mrs. Janelle Hurst and Russell Naron, pastor.



BETHEL CHURCH, Bogue Chitto had an Acteens Coronation Feb. 22. Receiving awards were: Queen, Stacey Moak; Queen-with-Scepter, Regina Brown; Queen-Regent, Dana Wallace; Pam Moak, Valerie Moak. Service Aide, Stephanie Case, Lucretia Brown. Linda Moak and Malissa Sasser are Acteen Leaders. Tommy Purvis is pastor. Annie Hart read the Scripture for the evening program.



WEST SHADY GROVE (WEBSTER) burned the note on its four-year-old pastorium March 5. The house was paid for 18 months before the note was due. Pastors and Building Committee, in bottom photo, left to right, are: Bob Hill, pastor when the pastorium was built and speaker for the occasion; Pascal Hodges; Johnny Reese; Marion Hodges; Bill Baker, pastor; Vernon White; Jim Murphy; Preston Pearson; and (not pictured) George Salley. The church is working on plans for needed facilities to be constructed later this year.



PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH, Laurel, held dedication services Feb. 27. Tennis court and sound system were presented by dedication by Willie George Cooley. Teddy Craven presented for dedication the church bus. The pastor, Dicky McAllister, brought the dedicatory address. The youth of the church presented McAllister a Bible.

Members took a ride on the new bus after lunch in Fellowship Hall.

Jimmy Sellers will deliver the 11 a.m. message for the sixth anniversary celebration of Providence Church, Pearl, on March 19. Sellers was the church's first regular pastor. Dinner will be served on the grounds, according to Pastor Harry Gipson.



BREWER CHURCH had a Sweetheart Banquet Feb. 11. Randy Watts, left, was King and Teresa Kellum, right was Queen. Bobby Holland of Birmingham Ridge Church was guest speaker. Danny Holland is pastor.



FIRST CHURCH OF OLIVE BRANCH dedicated a new 66 passenger bus on Feb. 26. Left to right are committee members Harvey Haraway, Bob Marr, Richard Samsel, youth pastor, Danny Crow, and P. J. Scott, pastor.

Midway (Newton) To Celebrate Centennial

Midway Church in Newton Association will celebrate its centennial on Sunday, March 19.

Special services will begin at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. "All former pastors and friends of the church are invited to attend," says Henry Mike Smith, pastor.

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Crosby Church will observe homecoming on Sunday, April 2. William (Bill) T. Crosby, native of Crosby who is now pastor of First Church, Magnolia, will speak at 11 a.m. He was licensed to preach at Crosby, his home church, in 1956 — the year the congregation occupied a new building. Later he was also ordained at Crosby. Special music for homecoming will be under direction of Melvin K. Bruss, church organist. Dinner will be served on the grounds.

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CONFERENCE LEADERS

MARCH 27

James Webster, Minister of Education, Parkway Church, Jackson
Roy Myers, Pastor, Mt. Zion Church, Independence
Bill Hardy, Minister of Education, First Church, Columbus
Elmo McLaurin, Minister of Education, Highland Church, Meridian
Bob Taylor, Minister of Education, First Church, Kosciusko
Milton Burd, Minister of Music and Education, First Church, Cleveland
Judd R. Allen, Sunday School Department, Jackson
Bryant Cummings, Director Sunday School Department Jackson
Larry Salter, Sunday School Department, Jackson
Billy Hudgens, Sunday School Department, Jackson

MARCH 28

James Webster
Roy Myers
Bill Hardy
Elmo McLaurin
Bob Taylor
Milton Burd
Mose Dangerfield, Sunday School Department, Jackson
Judd R. Allen
Bryant Cummings
Larry Salter
Billy Hudgens

MARCH 30

James Webster
Roy Myers
Bill Hardy
Bob Taylor
Scotty McClelland, Minister of Youth Activities, First Church, Cleveland
Mose Dangerfield
Judd R. Allen
Bryant Cummings
Larry Salter
Billy Hudgens

APRIL 15

Mose Dangerfield

Revival Dates

East Fork Church, (Mississippi Association): March 19-22; Earldene McCorvey, Baxley, Ga., evangelist; Clay Campbell, singer; Sunday services at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; during the week at 7:30 p.m.; Wayne G. Berry, pastor.

Byram Church: March 19-24; services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday; at 7:30 p.m. during week; O'Neil Giles, pastor of Macedonia Church, Meridian, evangelist; Henry J. Bennett, pastor.

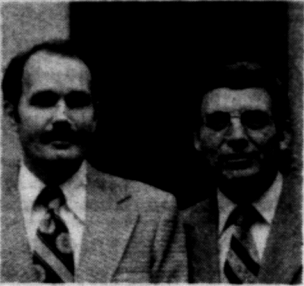
Puckett Church: March 19-24; S. W. Valentine, pastor of Union Church, Rankin County, evangelist; Bill Barnes, music director at Meadow Grove Church, Brandon, guest musician; James F. Smith, pastor; youth night on Friday night; Sunday night at 6:30; during week at 7:30 p.m.

Wade Church: March 27-31; Donnie Guy, pastor at Wade, evangelist; Ed Keyes, minister of music at Cottage Hill, Mobile, singer; services at 7 p.m.

Pleasant Hill (Lincoln): March 19-22; Richard Kirgan, evangelist; Thomas Moak, minister of music at South McComb Church, leading the singing. Kirgan, a full-time evangelistic Bible teacher, is a native of Texas. He is a former pastor and home missionary.

Annapolis, Md. (RNS) — The Maryland Senate has passed a death penalty bill permitting capital punishment in 10 specific circumstances, and providing for a two-tier trial system.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



J. DON DOBEY, left, Meridian, was presented the Larry Love Memorial Scholarship by President W. Randall Lolley, right, of Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C.



William G. Dowdy and Mrs. Dowdy were honored on their 25th wedding anniversary with a reception and open house at the White Oak Church pastorage in Smith Association. Dowdy is pastor at White Oak. The three-tiered wedding cake was made by Mrs. JoAnn Sellers. Children of the Dowdys placed flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday in honor of their parents. Members of White Oak presented the Dowdys an engraved silver tray. The Dowdys' children are Mr. and Mrs. William G. Dowdy, Jr., Poplarville; Darlene, University of Southern Mississippi; Pam of Mississippi State; and Tim.

John Graeter, pastor of Oak Hill Church, Poplarville, was given a surprise birthday party by members of his church on Sunday evening, Jan. 22. Young people had decorated the fellowship hall under

supervision of Mrs. Imogene Haadley. Charles Powell, music and youth director, was master of ceremonies for a "This Is Your Life" program. Pictures of the pastor from childhood to the present were displayed, including ones of him when he was in the army and when he was playing baseball with the Cardinals. Graeter began his pastorate at Oak Hill on Oct. 9, 1977.

Thomas J. Delaughter, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew at New Orleans Seminary, will lead a Bible study on Exodus at Jayess Church, March 17-19. Sessions on Friday and Saturday nights will be at 7. Sunday sessions will be at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Delaughter will also speak at the worship hours of 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday.

David Lynn Hicks, of Louisville, Ky., has accepted a call from Parkview Church of Bluefield, Va., to serve as pastor. Hicks and his wife, Bonnie, are natives of Mississippi and are both graduates of the University of Mississippi and Southern Seminary. He received the Ph.D. degree from Southern Seminary in 1977. He has served as youth minister in Mississippi, pastor of two churches in Kentucky, and as BSU director at the University of Mississippi.

Kenneth E. Walters, pastor of Fellowship Church, Lauderdale Association, has written an article, "Guide Lines For Christian Living: Preaching from Titus," to be published in PROCLAIM magazine. The magazine lists him as pastor of Bel Aire Church of Gulfport, where he was pastor when the article was written. PROCLAIM is published by the Sunday School Board, SBC.

David Byrd, who recently became the director of Boyce Bible School in Louisville, Ky., is a native of Mississippi and was formerly pastor in the state. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. Q. Byrd, live in Clinton. Byrd went to Louisville from the pastorate of West Jackson Church, Jackson, TN. Boyce Bible School is a branch of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

J. D. Young, father of James E. Young, missionary to Bangladesh, died recently. Missionary Young may be addressed at Box 3, Feni, Bangladesh. He is a native of Thomastown, Miss. His wife is the former Guinevere Jenkins of Kosciusko.

Mrs. Lloyd Johnson, Sr., age 78, has written a tribute in memory of her husband of many years, who died Dec. 18, 1977. She states that Lloyd Johnson as a father set a good example, as a church member was loyal to his place of worship, and as a Christian "was not afraid of the truth but always ready and anxious to witness." He was elected to public office in two counties. The couple lived at Route 1, Kosciusko.

Dalraida Church, Montgomery, Alabama, has called Curtis Brewer as minister of music and youth. A native of McComb, Brewer has previously held similar positions at First Church, Magnolia and First Church, Summit. He holds a Master of Music degree from Mississippi College. His wife is the former Marilyn Myrick of Laurel. Emory B. Green is pastor of the Dalraida Church.

Services for Mrs. Florence Harrell, 90, of Route 3, Brandon, were at 11 a.m. March 11 at the Pisgah Baptist Church. She was the grandmother of Paul Harrell, director, Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Mrs. Harrell, widow of Henry Harrell, died early March 9 at St. Dominic Hospital after a short illness. A lifetime Rankin County resident, she was a member of Pisgah Baptist Church. She is survived by three sons, Edward Harrell and Jessie Harrell, both of Brandon, and A. D. Harrell, of Hoquiam, Wash.; three daughters, Mrs. Eugene (Agnes) Bates of Brandon, Mrs. Edwin (Sig) Moore and Mrs. Steen (Thelma) Chandler, both of Jackson; two sisters, ten grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Ellisville Celebrates With Centennial Missions Fair

First Church, Ellisville, focused on the Mississippi WMU Centennial during WMU Week in the presentation of a Centennial Mission Fair.

All age levels of missionary organizations participated in the fair. They received tour tickets, and were assigned to tour guides. Baptist Women had prepared mission displays, showing work in Spanish and Chinese missions in the Delta. Oriental music was playing in the background. Women wore Spanish and Chinese costumes.

G.A.s and Acteens arranged an Indian Village, with teepees, pottery, baskets, bead jewelry made by the Choctaw Indians. The girls, dressed as Indians, gave a skit, "We are Choctaws."

The Baptist Men and Royal Ambassadors had pictures and tracts showing mission work with National Baptists. Pictures of Dick Brogan, W. P. Davis, T. B. Brown, Mrs. Alma Barnes, and other leaders of blacks were displayed. Colored slides were shown portraying early mission work among blacks, especially at Sophia Sutton Assembly. Miniature bales of cotton and black dolls, cotton pickers of earlier times, were on display.

Baptist Women served popcorn, sandwiches and cookies from a concession stand decorated with balloons. While the members ate refreshments, they viewed a display in the fellowship hall showing something of the local WMU and church, and especially the early history of Sunbeams. The Baptist Young Women and Mission

Friends prepared this display.

Don Stewart, interim pastor, brought a message on the WMU Centennial Theme, "Our Best for God." The Baptist Young Women led a

candelighting ceremony of remembrance. Prayer support leaders placed tiny red crosses on a map of Mississippi where Southern Baptists have mission projects.



First Church, Ellisville staged a Mission Fair in honor of the state WMU Centennial. Left to right are Don Stewart, interim pastor; Mrs. Jeff Walters, Centennial chairman; Mrs. W. C. Reynolds, WMU director; and Mrs. M. P. Carter, prayer support director.

Devotional

Learning To Fail Forward

By John R. Claypool, Pastor, Northminster, Jackson

When Arthur Gordon was a beginning journalist, he interviewed Thomas Watson and asked him for the secret of his legendary career in bringing IBM to where it was as the leader in the computer industry. Watson replied simply: "I have learned how to fail forward!"

This involved accepting the fact that we humans are imperfect and choosing to learn from failure rather than letting it crush us into despair and bitterness. He told of an early childhood experience in New England where a neighboring farmer went out one morning and found his plum tree had been blown down the night before.

When asked what he was going to do, he answered tersely: "I'm going to pick the fruit and burn the rest." This made an indelible impression on the young lad and became a working model to him of how to handle failure.

Learn what there is to be learned from the experience and put it behind you. This really is the secret of creative growing.

Is not this exactly how Jesus handled the less than perfect? One day some self-righteous critics dragged a woman before Him and said they had caught her in the very act of adultery and what was Jesus going to do about it?

He first of all "accused the accusers," and suggested they were projecting some of their own shadows on her. Who in that group was innocent enough to execute?

Then He said to the woman: "I do not condemn you, that is, I do not regard this failure experience as ultimate or the measure of what you have in you to become. Go and sin no more."

What is this, if not the invitation to fail forward? Forgiveness is God's way of giving us another chance at life on the same basis as He gave us our original chance; namely, apart from our deserving it.

If we will seize these new opportunities and let the shadows of the past become our teachers, then even our failures can become stepping stones rather than stumbling blocks.



Claypool

Church Secretary Earns Certificate

Effie Jones of First Church, Kosciusko recently passed the basic exam in the Church Secretary's Personal Enrichment program. She is financial, church, and pastor's secretary for the church. L. Edward Gandy, pastor, presented her with the special certificate in a worship service at the church.



Uniform Lesson

Witnessing With Power

By Hardy R. Denham, Jr.
First, Newton
Acts 3:1-10; 4:1-4

In the Chinese language the word crisis is a compound word made up of two symbols. The first symbol represents opportunity and the second means danger. The Christian witness is urgently needed because of the crisis of individual lives. There is the crisis of man's lostness and the crises of life. These crises present the Christian witness with opportunity. However, there is also the element of danger, for some are opposed to the Lord and His servants. When Jesus instructed His disciples before sending them out, He told them to expect opposition (Matthew 10:16-23).

As the apostles accepted the challenges of their world, they discovered opportunities to witness and knew danger because of their witness. The dual realities of opportunity and opposition are the focus of this lesson.

I. The Opportunity For A Witness 3:1-10

The early Christians continued to worship God in the Jewish temple. The break with Judaism was not finalized until 70 AD when the temple was destroyed by the Romans. Thus Peter and John found an opportunity for witnessing as they went to the temple to worship (verse 1).

The condition of the lame man seemed incurable (verse 2). He had never walked and he was more than forty years old (Acts 4:22). All he could do was beg and he did so at a gate of the temple.

It was the lame man's act of begging that called his need to the attention of the two apostles (verse 3). Peter asked for the man's undivided attention before he spoke the word of command (verse 4). Then Peter commanded him in "the name of Jesus Christ" to do what he had never done in his life (verse 6). To aid the man to have faith, the apostle took him by the hand (verse 7). The magnitude of the miracle to be emphasized is the fact that he was not only healed immediately, but that he was instantly capable of doing what he had never learned to do—leaping and walking (verse 8).

The two consequences of this apostolic miracle worked in the power and person of Jesus Christ were that the healed man went into the temple to

worship (verse 8b) and the people were filled with wonder and amazement (verses 9-10). The people knew something had happened in the man's life. The man knew the Lord was the One who had made him whole.

The world is filled with cripples—spiritually and emotionally crippled people as well as those who cannot walk. They sit and wait for someone to speak the healing word in the name of Jesus. This is what witnessing is all about.

II. The Opposition To A Witness 4:1-4

Peter used the opportunity presented by the healing of the lame man to preach about Jesus (3:11-26). The miracle attracted a crowd and Peter was not one to pass up an opportunity to preach. Peter's second recorded sermon was also halted before he finished. On the day of Pentecost the people interrupted him with their cry of need (Acts 2:37). The message after the healing of the lame man was interrupted by the authorities (4:1-4).

The apostles were preaching in the temple, the home territory of the Sadducees. This was the group which played a large role in the arrest, trial and death of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, the Sadducees did not believe in life after death or resurrection. Thus their agitation over the apostles' conduct of "proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead" is easily understood (verse 2). They thought they had seen and heard the last of Jesus when He died on the cross. Not only was He reported to be alive again, but there were two of His disciples teaching that the Lord Jesus had died and risen, and the apostles were doing this in the Sadducees' place of rule.

A tremendous message is stated in the contrasting truth of verses 3 and 4. The apostles were arrested and put in jail to await a hearing on the next day (verse 3). However, the message Peter had proclaimed was not only heard by the multitude present in the temple area, but the truth was believed by many of them (verse 4a). Luke gave another statistical report and said that the number of believers was five thousand men (verse 4b). Some believe this was the actual number of converts as a result of Peter's message that day, while others see it as the total number of male believers at that time, the total not including women and children.

Even though the authorities could oppose the work of witnessing and even put the witnesses in jail, they could not stop the spread of the gospel or the activity of men responding to the presentation of Christ in an act of faith. The Christian witness in America today does not face the type of hostility

and opposition encountered by those first century witnesses, but there are those not favorably inclined to God's truth. However, oppose as men may, they cannot stop the gospel of Jesus Christ when faithfully presented from touching the hearts of men and transforming lives.

Believing In The Risen Lord

By Bill Duncan, Pastor
Long Beach, First
John 20:1-29

Two French gentlemen were talking—Monsieur Lepeaux and the statesman-bishop Talleyrand, who became a leader of the French revolution. Lepeaux was quite disappointed at his failure to gain followers for his new religion, which he regarded as an improvement on Christianity. He explained that despite all efforts by himself and his supporters, his propaganda gained no converts. He finally asked Talleyrand what he should do.

Talleyrand replied that it was indeed difficult to found a new religion, more difficult than could be imagined, so different that he hardly knew what to advise.

"Still," said Talleyrand, after a moment's reflection, "there is one plan that you might at least try. I should recommend you to be crucified and to rise again on the third day."

But remember the evidence of the resurrection was not easy for the disciples to believe. The empty tomb and the reports from witnesses of His appearances served to raise hope or create doubt. Ultimately belief came to them through a personal encounter with the risen Lord. Only after Christ came to them did their crisis pass.

Jesus revealed himself only to believers. If the world had not been impressed by the Scriptures, if men had not believed the miracles, the signs and wonders, the resurrection would not have impressed them. This is what

Abraham told the rich man when he requested that Abraham send someone back from the tomb to warn his brothers lest they come where he was in hell. The rich man argued that if somebody were to rise from the dead and return to his community, people would pay attention to that, and heed what was told them. Abraham said the brothers had Moses and the prophets, and if they were not heeding them, they would pay no attention if one rose from the dead (Luke 16:31).

The Empty Tomb
The disciples' spirits were devastated, and in their hurt it was difficult for them to hope again. Mary Magdalene was one of the last persons at the cross and among the first to visit the tomb. Mary's love for the Lord was evidenced by her faithfulness after He had delivered her from demon possession. Mary's reaction to the empty tomb was that someone had stolen the body. She had not expected the resurrection and that is one reason for her mistaken identity of the risen Christ.

Mary's experience is suggestive of what happened to the disciples. She ran to get the disciples to share with them what she had experienced. The tomb was empty. Peter and John ran to see. John got there first, but Peter was the first to go into the tomb. The linen clothes were lying in one place and apart from them was the napkin that had been placed around the head of Jesus. This was the evidence that no one had stolen the body. The record states that when John went in and looked, "he saw and believed."

Mary stood outside the sepulchre weeping. The Lord came to her as He does to all who are humble and have an adoring heart. She did not recognize Jesus. Her loving heart was concerned only with giving that body the proper preparation for final burial so she said, "I will carry the body away if you will tell me where you have laid Him." When He called her by name she became aware of the great victory over death.

The Eternal Message
The plain and simple record of John reveals that the group of disciples gathered behind closed doors in fear. Jesus had warned them that it would be difficult for them to believe. When Jesus came into the secured room, His message was reassuring, "Peace be unto you." He knew them and He still knows what terrifies and troubles His disciples.

His first word is "peace." He does not rebuke them for failing to recognize Him or chide them for forsaking Him. He has spoken peace, and now He is going to build the groundwork for their complete belief and acceptance of the reality of His resurrection. There is no mistaking of the hands. There is no doubt about the wounded side.

"Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord" (John 20:20). It was not just joy at seeing Him whom they loved, it was that they knew now for a surety that God's Word was true and His purpose would be carried out. They were glad for the blessedness of communion. There was true peace.

The message, the experience, and the joy carries with it the responsibility of service. As soon as they were convinced, they were commissioned. "As my Father hath sent me, so send I you." With the commission came the power to accomplish the work, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost."

The Earthly Man
Doubting Thomas is notorious wherever the gospel story is known. There is really no explanation as to why Thomas was not with the disciples when Jesus first appeared. He refused to accept their testimony of the resurrection. He wanted to see and touch those scarred hands and wounded side. This is assurance that cannot come from someone else's experience.

No doubt there are many like that today. Unbelief and an unwillingness to respond to the gospel is natural in the human heart. The witness of others is important but there is no substitute for personal experience.

Jesus did not leave Thomas in his stubborn doubt. One cannot always trust one's eyes. Actually Thomas was acting quite naturally. In Jesus' second appearance to the group, He spoke directly to Thomas, "Reach out and touch . . . and be not faithless but believing." Thomas fell to his knees and cried, "My Lord and my God." This confession manifested complete faith and subsequent worship.

Jesus did not reject Thomas' confession, but He did remind him that true faith does not demand visible proof. "The inner experience with Jesus Christ is the experience."



New Missions Are Planted

Those of you who have prayed with us for the beginning of a new mission in Belloto Sur, a twenty minute drive from Vina, will want to rejoice with us in the opening of this work. It has grown from thirty-five to seventy in Sunday School in seven weeks. We still do not have windows or electricity in the building, but people keep coming. Even though we are only seven weeks old, the members are planning a special drama complete with costumes, scenery, and cast. These leaders have waited a long time for their church, and they are so excited and eager to move forward that nothing seems to slow them down. Give thanks for this new mission and pray that God's Spirit will continue to guide them. Please pray also for two other new missions, Gomez Carreno and Nuevo Aurora.

—Rodney and Virginia Irby
Missionaries to Chile

... THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM